

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CCO-00

CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06

USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 USPS-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /091 W

-----091634Z 088092 /53

R 091345Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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PASS USPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU

SUBJECT: UPU: TALKS WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND DDG

REF: STATE 55996

1. ON MARCH 3, TELATT, ACCOMPANIED BY UK DCM IN BERN, GRIER, CALLED ON UPU DIRECTOR GENERAL SOBHI AND DEPUTY DG SCOTT. WHILE MEETING WITH SOBHI WAS CUT SHORT DUE TO TIMING PROBLEMS, THE 2 1/2 HOURS SEPTN WKTH SCOTT WERE THE MOST ILLIMINATING IN THE 1 1/2 YEARS THAT TELATT HOS KNOWN HIM.

2. FIRST, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT SCOTT AND SOBHI HAVE REVISED THEIR THINKING ABOUT USEFULNESS OF UPU SUBGROUP OF GENEVA GROUP. RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUS NON-RECOGNITION POLICY NOTED IN PARA 7 REFTTEL. SOBHI AND SCOTT AHVE OBVIOUSLY DECIDED THAT SUBGROUP CAN ON OCCASION SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE IN PRMOTING VIEWS OF IB AND ON SUCH OCCASIONS THEY APPEAR WILLING TO WORK WITH IT. SPECIFIC  
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INSTANCES WILL BE NOTED BELOW.

3. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED WITH SCOTT:

A. AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES:

SCOTT SAID THAT IB HAD TO CONDUCT STUDY AND REPORT TO 1979 CONGRESS COME WHAT MAY, BUT HE HOPED THAT BY THE TIME IT CAME TO SUBMIT REPORT, THERE WOULD BE NO

AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES LEFT. FRANCE AND U.S. HAVE NOW RENOUNCED, NETHERLANDS IS EXPECTED TO DO SO SOON, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE FOLLOWED BY PORTUGAL. GRIER EXPLAINED PROBLEM WAS A REAL ONE FOR UK ADMINISTRATION SINCE HONG KONG AND TO LESSER EXTENT, UK TERRITORIES IN CARIBBEAN IN FACT CONTROLLED THIS VOTE AND ARE VERY LOATH TO GIVE IT UP. FCO WAS CONTINUING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THEM TO DO SO AND FRANCE AND U.S. EXAMPLES WERE USEFUL IN MAKING CASE, BUT UP TO NOW, HONG KONG INTERESTS (WHICH ACCORDING TO GRIER HAVE VERY POWERFUL VOICE WITHIN UK GOVT CIRCLES) WILL NOT GIVE UP EASILY. SCOTT SUGGESTED THAT BRITISH MIGHT OFFER TO SPONSOR UPU CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO SET UP ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP STATUS, BUT WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ITS CHANCES OF PARRING. REGARDING QUESTIONNAIRE, ONLY ABOUT 25 RESPONSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE, MOST STATING THAT ADMINISTRATIONS ARE STUDYING ISSUE. AT ANY RATE, SCOTT BELIEVES THAT UNLESS QUESTION RESOLVED PRIOR TO 1979 CONGRESS BY RENUNCIATION OF ALL FIVE TERRITORIAL VOTES, MATTER WILL BE SETTLED AT CONGRESS BY VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS DECISION REJECTING CONTINUED TERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP. SOBHI WILL RECOMMEND THAT CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 3 DELAY DISCUSSION OF ITEM UNTIL 1978 SINCE SO FEW REPLIES RECEIVED TO DATE. TELATT ADVISED SCOTT RE U.S. ACTION ON QUESTIONNAIRE AS NOTED PARA 4 KE) REFTEL.

B. 1977 AND 1978 BUDGET:

SCOTT WAS PLEASED BY FACT THAT DESPITE INCREASES IN PROFESSIONAL ALLOWANCES APPROVED BY UNGA AND DESPITE GS SALARY INCREASES, BOTH OF WHICH TOTAL SF 200,000 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOGETHER, THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCREASE REQUESTED FOR 1977; THE SF 200,000 WILL BE ABSORBED AND IN FACT, THERE WILL BE A BUDGET SURPLUS FOR 1977. INDEED, EACH YEAR SEES A GREATER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ACTUAL UPU BUDGET AND THE CEILING, WITH THE MARGIN OF SAVINGS CONSTANTLY INCREASING. FOR 1978, SCOTT NOTED WITH PRIDE, DG'S DRAFT BUDGET WILL BE SF 1.6 MILLION UNDER CEILING. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT NOT A SINGLE NEW POSITION HAD BEEN CREATED IN IB SINCE SOBHI AND HE HAD TAKEN OVER. HE ADDED THAT AS EACH JOB VACANCY OCCURS, HE KEEPS IT UNFILLED FOR A TIME, USUALLY SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS, TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT JOB IS ACTUALLY NEEDED. HE WAS ALSO PROUD OF FACT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO PUT NEW LANGUAGE SYSTEM INTO OPERATION WITH NO INCREASE IN STAFF. HE HOPED GG SUBGROUP WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLE TO IB EFFORTS AND SUPPORT HIS BUDGET.

C. LANGUAGE SYSTEM:

SCOTT REPORTS TWO NON-MAJOR PROBLEMS ON THIS SUBJECT: (1) THE HEAD OF THE NEW UNIT (AN INDONESIAN)

IS NOT WORKING OUT WELL BUT HE WILL BE REPLACED BY END OF YEAR, AND (2) INVARIABLE FRENCH AND ENGLISH DOCUMENTS APPEAR QUICKER THAN SPANISH AND ARABIC, LEADING TO COMPLAINTS BY LATTER TWO GROUPS. HE IS TRYING TO REMEDY THIS, OTHERWISE, PROGRAM WORKING SMOTHLY.

D. CONTRIBUTIONS;

THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCEEASES DURING PAST YEAR.

SOBHI HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEND ANOTEHR CIRCULAR LETTER YET BUT HAS BEEN RELYING ON PERSONAL APPEALS MADE DURING OFFICIAL TRIPS AND AT CONFERENCES. HE PLANS A LETTER AROUND END OF 1977, PLAYING ON THEME OF INCERASING CONTRIBUTIONS PRIOR TO 1979 CONGRESS.

E. ARGENTINE PROPOSAL

AS DIRECTED BY LAST COINCIL IB WILL REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO SET UP WORKING GROUP ON SUBJECT, SUGGEST COMPOSITION AND PROGRAM OF WORK AND SUGGEST TAHT REPORT BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBER STATE FOR THEIR VIEWS. WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONED BY U.S. REP, SCOTT ADMITED THERE WAS NOTHING IN LAUSANNE CONGRESS RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A WORKING GROUP, MERELY THAT HE AND SOBHI THOUGHT THIS WAS BEST WAY TO HANDLE SUBJECT. SCOTT SAID WORKING GROUP WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS ANDTHAT U.S. COULD JOIN IF IT WISHED; TELATT DOUBTED U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED SINCE PARTICIPATION WOULD IMPLY SUPPORT OF GROUP'S REPORT.

F. WORKING LANGUAGES:

SCOTT REPORTED THAT STUDY OF WORKING LANGUAGES IN UN SYSTEM INDICATES ENGLISH PREDOMINATES; IN SOME CASES, IT IS ONLY WORKING LANGUAGE. ALTHOUGH ENGLISH COULD BE MADE A WORKING LANGUAGE WITHOUT AMENDING CONSTITUTION, HE DOUBTS IF THERE ENOUGH VOTES TO DO SO; ONLY WAY HE BELIEVES THIS COULD BE DONE IS IN A PACKAGE DEAL WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SPANISH AND ARABIC. REGARDING COSTS, SCOTT BELIEVED THREE NEW WORKING LANGUAGES COUOD BE INTRODUCED WITHOUT MAJOR INCREASE ONLY IF VARIOUS LANGUAGE GROUPS CONTINUE TO BEAR TRANSLATION COSTS. RE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL THAT IB OFFICIALS USE ENGLISH, SPANISH OR ARABIC,RATHER THAN SPEAK IN FRENCH AT UPU CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, SCOTT SAID THIS COULD BE INSTITUTED ON TRIAL BASIS, PROVIDED THAT IB NOT BE BILLED FOR COSTS OF INTERPRETATION (WHICH NOW PAID FOR ENTIRELY BY LANGUAGE GROUPS, INCLUDING FRENCH).

G. STAFF QUESTIONS:

SCOTT REPORTED THAT A MILITANT HAD TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF IB STAFF ASSOCIATION AND HAS THREATENED TO APPEAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON POLICY MATTERS NOT OF ITS LIKING

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TRSE-00 /090 W  
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DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL, WITH REQUEST TO OVERRULE  
MANAGEMENT. SCOTT SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE GG SUBGROUP  
SUPPORT IN KNOCKING THIS IDEA DOWN.

H. STAFF SALARIES:

SCOTT NOTED THAT IN 1976, EC WAS UNHAPPY  
ABOUT UPU IMPLEMENTING GS SALARY INCREASES APPLIED BY  
UN IN GENEVA AND ASKED IB TO STUDY SITUATION AND SUBMIT  
REPORT AT 1977 SESSION. AFTER INVESTIGATION, SCOTT  
SEES ONLY THREE OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO A STRAIGHT PASS-  
THROUGH OF GENEVA INCREASES:

(1) USE SWISS GOVT SYSTEM; HOWEVER, SWISS DO NOT  
MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CITIES OF EMPLOYMENT; THEY PAY  
ALL THE SAME RATE; (2) USE UN GENEVA METHOD OF HIRING  
PRIVATE CONSULTANT TO PROVIDE RAW DATA FOR LOCAL WAGE  
SCALE SURVEY, HAVE OWN STAFF TO WORK UP PROPOSAL  
(ACCORDING TO ESTIMATE BY JIU, UPU WOULD REQUIRE 8 TO 10  
ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM THIS WORK AND THEN  
NEGOTIATE WITH STAFF; EVEN THEN, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE  
THAT END RESULT WOULD BE LESS THAN GENEVA FUTURE;  
OR (3) CONTINUE PRESNET SYSTEM UNTIL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL  
SERVICE COMMISSION- ICSC - COMPLETES CURRENT STUDY ON  
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GENEVA SITUATION AND CONSIDER OPTIONS THEN. IT OBVIOUS

THAT SCOTT PREFERRED LATTER COURSE AND HE HOPED GG SUB-GROUP COULD SUPORT IT AS WELL.

I. SECRETARIAT POSITIONS:

PER PARA 4 (F) REFTTEL, TELATT ADVISED SCOTT THAT U.S. WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTING CANDIDATES FOR VACANT P-5 POSITIONS. SCOTT SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED SINCE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND AFRICA BOTH UNDER-REPRESENTED ON STAFF. HE NOTED THERE WAS A CANADIAN CANDIDATE FOR ONE POST BUT INDICATED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO APPOINT HIM AS CANADA ALREADY HAS ONE SECRETARIAT POSITION AND GIVEN FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY 55 JOBS AND 155 MEMBER STATES, IT CAUSES PROBLEMS WHEN THERE IS MORE THAN ONE EMPLOYEE PER COUNTRY. SCOTT SAID HE THOUGHT U.S. WAS NOT GOING AFTER P-5 JOB NOW BECAUSE IT PREFERRED TO WAIT FOR A D-1 POSITION COMING VACANT IN 1979; TELATT STATED HE HAD NO INFO ON THIS MATTER.

4. MEETING WITH SOBHI WAS SHORT DUE TO LACK OF TIME BECAUSE OF LENGTH OF MEETING WITH SCOTT. ONLY MATTER GONE OVER WITH SOBHI NOT DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY WITH SCOTT WAS MATTER OF PRINTING UPU PUBLICATIONS. SOBHI POINTED OUT ALL UPU PRINTING DONE ON BASIS OF OPEN BIDDING AND THAT PAPER AND PRINTING WERE HANDLED SEPARATELY. FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN VALUE OF SWISS FRANC, VIRTUALLY NO UPU PRINTING WAS BEING DONE IN SWITZERLAND. UNION GOT BEST DEAL ON PAPER FROM GERMAN FIRM AND ACTUAL PRINTING NOW BEING DONE MOST CHEAPLY IN UK. SOBHI AGAIN PUSHED HIS DRAFT BUDGET AND HOPED U.S. AND UK COULD SUPPORT IT IN GG SUBGROUP.

5. TELATT AND GRIER THANKED SOBHI AND SCOTT WARMLY FOR INFO PROVIDED AND PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH PRIOR TO OPENING OF EC, IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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